



## **Media Release Public Relations**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Riva Brown

Date: September 10, 2007

Administration Tower, Second Floor  
Post Office Box 17490  
Jackson, MS 39217  
Fax: (601) 979-5833  
Phone: (601) 979-1571  
Web: [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu)  
E-mail: [riva.brown@jsums.edu](mailto:riva.brown@jsums.edu)

### **JSU hosting international symposium on environmental health research**

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Jackson State University’s College of Science, Engineering and Technology is hosting the Fourth International Symposium on Recent Advances in Environmental Health Research from Sept. 16-19 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson.

About 300 scientists and students from 22 countries are expected at the event, which is designed to contribute to global research and education in the fields of environmental science and public health, said Paul B. Tchounwou, CSET associate dean.

The program will include oral and platform presentations given by 40 invited speakers, as well as two poster sessions – one for faculty and scientists, the other for students. About 85 JSU students will present posters.

“It’s an excellent opportunity for those students to basically interact with experts in various fields and know what is going on in the state of research in environmental science as it relates to public health,” said Tchounwou, who also serves as deputy director of the National Institutes of Health Research Centers in Minority Institutions-Center for Environmental Health.

The lectures and poster presentations will address issues such as environmental toxicology and health risk assessment; emerging issues in computational biology and environmental modeling; environmental geology and human health; new frontiers in environmental health research; natural resources damage assessment and management; and health disparities and environmental security.

**-more-**

A group of experts from around the world will judge the posters. Awards are \$200 for first place, \$100 for second and \$50 for third. All presenters will receive certificates.

JSU student Stephen Kishinhi of Tanzania, a doctoral student in environmental science, has presented a poster each year the symposium has been held. This year, his poster will focus on microbial water quality assessment in Grand Bay, Miss., which is near Moss Point on the Gulf Coast.

The Jackson resident said getting feedback from the judges helps to improve his research.

“They give you new ideas because they’ve been in the field a long time and have a lot of experience,” said Kishinhi, who earned a master’s degree in environmental science from JSU in 2005. “They give you a challenge you didn’t expect.”

The symposium receives financial support from the National Institutes of Health RCMI Center for Environmental Health, U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program, Diwan University and JSU’s Office of Research, Development, Support and Federal Relations.

–JSU–

**About Jackson State University**

Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black, high research activity university located in Jackson, the capital city of the state of Mississippi. Jackson State’s nurturing academic environment challenges individuals to change lives through teaching, research and service. Officially designated as Mississippi’s Urban University, Jackson State continues to enhance the state, nation and world through comprehensive economic development, health-care, technological and educational initiatives. The only university in the Jackson metropolitan area, Jackson State is located near downtown, with three satellite campuses throughout the city. For more information, visit [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu).